



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 13, 2001

Mr. Joel Hebdon, Director
Regulatory Compliance and Analysis Division
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-58
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED
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EDMC

Dear Mr. Hebdon:

Re: Letter, Steven H. Wisness, USDOE, to Michael A. Wilson, Ecology, "Request to Deny Closure of the 2401-W Waste Storage Building (2401-W)," dated February 1, 2001 (01-RCA-126)

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received and reviewed the referenced letter. The U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) request for Ecology to deny approval of the 2401-W Closure Plan is not being considered as it significantly conflicts with actions taken to date. Specifically, the 2401-W Building has already been clean-closed and the final status permit being issued for the Central Waste Complex (CWC) reflects this closure status. In addition, the final status permit for CWC was not written with consideration of the 2401-W as an active unit. As the referenced letter states, USDOE has made significant upgrades (\$350,000) to the unit and is considering a wide range of activities that were not fully described in the permit application.

However, as mentioned in your letter, alternative regulatory pathways are possible if USDOE chooses to incorporate the 2401-W Building into CWC's final permit as an operating unit. The Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations present several options. For example, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-830 details the criteria for making changes to final status permits, which includes Class 1, 2, or 3 permit modifications, as well as temporary authorizations. Ecology would be happy to work with USDOE in defining an appropriate regulatory approach.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter, or for scheduling a time when we can meet and begin to work out the details of incorporating the 2401-W Building into the CWC permit. As you know, Ecology has been working for some time to issue the CWC's final status permit in Modification E to the Hanford Sitewide Permit. We hope to have it issued within the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Laura Ruud
Nuclear Waste Program

LR:sb

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA
Astrid Larsen, USDOE
Greg Sinton, USDOE
Steve Wisness, USDOE
Roger Bowman, FH

Cindy Girres, FH
Richard Gurske, FH
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Administrative Files: Mod E/RCRA Sitewide Permit